



# News Release

STATE OF MARYLAND

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Shakespeare in Prison:  
Chesapeake Shakespeare Company to Perform *Macbeth*  
At Patuxent Institution on November 4**

***A first for a maximum-security prison, with proceeds to benefit  
Thurgood Marshall Scholarship Fund***

TOWSON, MD (October 29, 2007)--- A professional Shakespeare troupe will perform *Macbeth* behind bars on **Sunday, November 4 at 1 p.m. at the Patuxent Institution in Jessup**. The performance will mark the first time in 20 years for a professional Shakespeare performance in a Maryland prison, and the first inside a maximum-security prison.

Inmates who have not been found guilty of any infractions for one year will be allowed to buy tickets for themselves and their guests. Proceeds will go to the Thurgood Marshall Scholarship Fund, which gives young people merit-based scholarships to attend 47 historically Black colleges and universities.

Patuxent's employees also have generously donated to the scholarship fund, including a contribution made by correctional officers who are members of AFSCME.

The Maryland Correctional Enterprises Patuxent Sign Shop has used original inmate artwork to create the posters advertising the performance, which will feature 25 to 30 members of the acclaimed Chesapeake Shakespeare Company based in Ellicott City. Inmates have also helped to prepare the stage location.

Extra copies of *Macbeth* were donated to the Patuxent library so that inmates could familiarize themselves with the classic before the performance.

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Patuxent Warden John Wilt brought Shakespeare to prison twenty years ago at Brockbridge Correctional Center, part of the Maryland pre-release system. But Wilt, who is now warden at Patuxent, points out that such an effort inside a maximum-security prison is all but unheard-of. "It's a chance to broaden the horizons of many inmates while simultaneously contributing to a great cause," says the veteran warden.

Patuxent Institution is a renowned treatment and remediation prison in Jessup housing approximately 750 men and 90 women, all of whom participate in a highly-structured program which includes a graded privilege tier system. Dr. Randall Nero is the Director of Patuxent Institution.

***Due to the size of the crowd expected and logistical issues, members of the media must call in advance and arrive at the facility by 12:30 p.m.--- earlier if interviews with staff or inmates are desired.***

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